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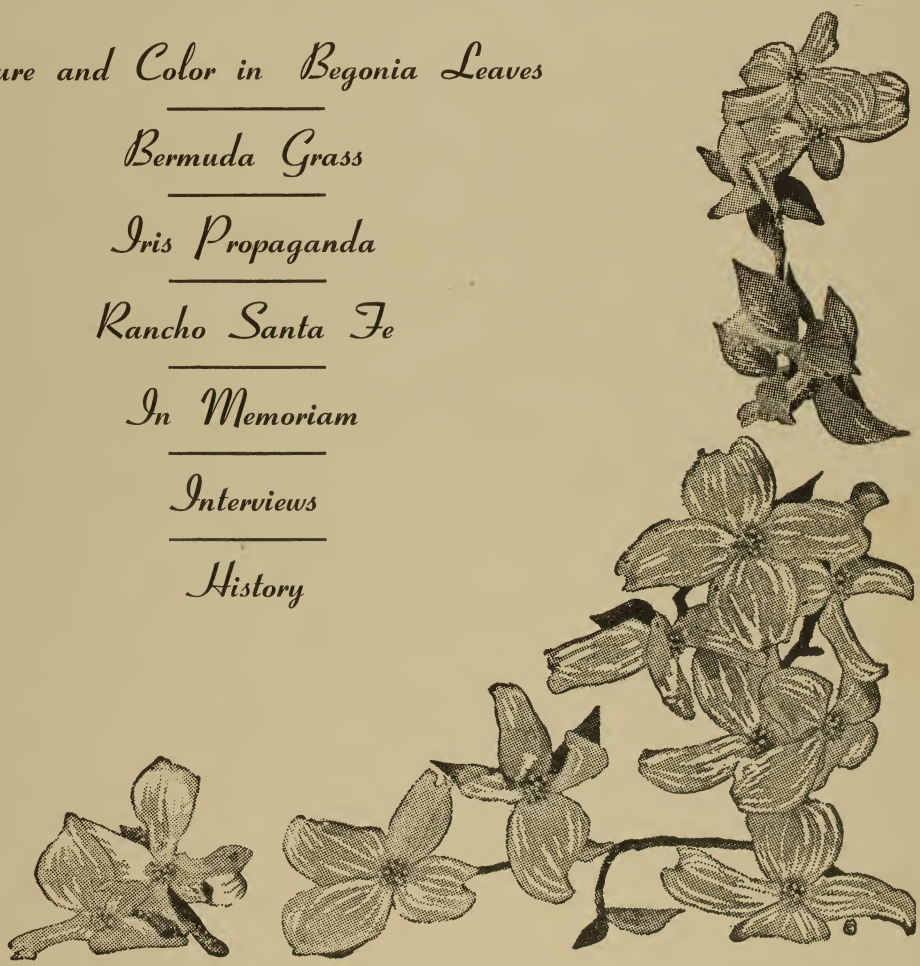

One of the Begonias discussed in the article beginning on the opposite page.
Picture by courtesy of the Begonian.

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Texture and Color in Begonia Leaves

With Notes on Begonia Culture

By Alice M. Clark

Constant observation and practice in any art increases perception and understanding. A beginner in the study of floriculture sees only pleasing masses of color. With more experience, he will recognize the plants that compose a picture, experiment with various combinations he has observed and learn, after some disappointments, to ask for the material he wants by its specific name. As a gardener becomes familiar with his plants, he awakens to the part shape and size play in the ensemble, noting that large heavy leaves give weight while airiness and depth are conveyed by smaller, more pointed leaves. Soon he realizes that there are other attributes besides form and flower color. Studying the way leaf textures absorb or reflect light, he finds a new palette composed of shades of green which can be used with the same finesse as a complete spectrum. Always there is progress. One day he scents the delicate fragrance of maindenhair ferns or becomes aware of the beauty of shifting shadows on a wall. When the student has reached this phase, he is ready for the charms of the begonia world.

In the climate of San Diego we can enjoy almost all begonia types in a natural outdoor environment or good specimens can be raised inside the glass walls of the many modern homes to be found here. The begonia genus is a versatile one and, like any large family, has children that play to the gallery and those who are more rewarding after a period of appreciative attention. The show-offs are the tuberous begonias.

They need no sponsor, so we will leave them to bask in the lath-light, while we inspect their more subtle relations. Let us look at begonias from the point of view of their finger-teasing texture, and the eye-rewarding color and pattern of their foliage. To some extent, the one governs the other, so we can consider them together.

It is interesting to think of begonia leaves in terms of fabrics ranging from satin to plush, from silvery brocades to nubby homespuns. No other plant family can compete with them in this respect. If you favor the gleaming highlights of slipper satin, consider the tall round-leaf variety of *B. nitida,* or the ruffled *B. undulata,* or the handsome basket types, *B. scandens, B. Limminghei* and *B. Marjorie Daw.* The rhyzomatous *B. erythrophylla (syn. Feasti),* adds a red back to its shining surface, as do the fibrous ones, *B. sanguinea* and *B. Dorothy Grant.* This last inherits its glazed top from *B. Thurstoni.* If you sprinkle your satin with silver dots, it opens up a world of cane-stemmed hybrids from *B. coccinea* and *B. lucerna* and that tropical beauty, *B. dichroa.*

Silky finishes are common among the fibrous. Examine the thin, apple-green tissues of *B. tenuifolia* or the small red-tinged leaf of *B. Pruessen* or the exceptionally beautiful dark green sheen on the red lined leaves of *B. acutangula. B. angularis* has a pattern of gray bars on her lustrous surface. Changeable taffeta is typified by the rose and green lights on the foliage of *B. President Carnot* and *B. Abel Carriere.* While the deep-green irridescence of *B. Drury's* leaves, with their claret-wine backs, is like watered silk.

In variety of texture, color and pattern the rex begonias exceed all the fantasies that have ever been woven in brocade. I marvel that textile workers today have overlooked the rich field of design among these large, picture-leaved begonias. From silver, through the jewel tones of jade, chalcedony, chrysophage, tourmaline, garnet and ruby; frosted like moonstones; shimmering like opals, or layered like onyx, rexes are treasures whose fabric and color are comparable to museum masterpieces of silk tapestry. Small wonder that there are many gardeners who devote themselves exclusively to the culture of rexes.

The hirsute group of begonias are definitely woolly. The silver dots studding the dark surface of *B. argentea guttata* are so thick they remind you of salt-and-pepper homespun. Weavings of chocolate color on the green of *B. perle lorraine* look like tweed, while *B. macrocarpa, var. pubescens,* like camel's hair, brings the same irresistible desire to smooth its silky surface. Fine bristles on the dark ruffled leaves of *B. Mrs. W. A. Wallow* recall the roughness of mohair and the pleatings of *B. ulmifolia* and *B. malibarica* are crepy. Plaid is suggested by the yellow lacings on the green foliage of the tuberous *B. pearcei.* The reversible gray-green and red plush of *B.*

Scharffiana seems thick enough for an old-fashioned sofa. The irridescent green and pinky-gold embossed pattern of *B. metallica* could have been the inspiration for my grandfather's silken-haired cap.

The felted surfaces of *B. incana* and *B. venosa* must be seen to be believed. *B. imperialis, var. smaragdina* is like cut velvet in tones of brown-green against yellow-green, in contrast to the plain green velour of *B. imperialis*. The webbing of *B. gogoensis* conveys the pattern of leather. Heavy splashes of cream, rose and green on *B. manicata aureo-maculata,* coupled with the coarse tufted red scales underneath, are combinations found in unusual modern weavings. These are but a few of the textile comparisons that will come to you as you handle begonias. They certainly furnish enough to dress a garden!

A few words on the culture of begonias at this season may be helpful. Plant small tubers or seedlings in 6-inch pots when growth in flats is well under way, accenting good drainage. Some people make the mistake of using dry leafmold that is not sufficiently composted. So the nitrogen they may add at potting time is used to start bacterial action instead of feeding the begonia. Cottonseed meal, fishmeal or well-rotted dairy manure, plus some bone-meal to feed the last stages of the tubers, is good in the compost. A little garden sulphur will acidify.

Some gardeners prefer a single stalk, with larger flowers, on their tubers; others like graceful plants with more foliage and flowers, which will be smaller. Try making cuttings of extra sprouts that are two or three inches long. Take a tiny heel of the tuber for a base, dust with rooting powder and start in a cutting box. It will bloom and make a small tuber late in the season and increase some of your favorite stock. A little sulphur or charcoal will heal the cut on the tuber.

Begonia's leaves point to the front. Note this when you transplant so they will face right in a bed and you know where to put the stakes at the back. This should be done when setting out or potting, so you avoid injuring the tuber and can start the important business of tying it up at once. Heavy, soft string or twistums are good but leave the loops large enough for growth.

Locate begonias in a protected spot. Wind is the one thing they cannot take. They bloom better with plenty of light and some morning sun. In the coastal regions where there is a cool morning fog in summer they will be a mass of color in an open bed with sun up to noon. If raised on a porch or any place with a solid roof they will lean toward the light.

For best results alternate with others in the garden. Do not expect tuberous begonias to bloom in the average house. Float flowers in a brandy snifter, where they will last in full beauty for a week. Begonias love the moisture of a garden and will lose their buds if there is not a steady supply of humidity. They will stand a warm daytime temperature but they must have cooler nights, which makes them difficult for some parts of the country.

Do not overfeed any begonias. A week fertilizer solution at two or three week intervals, after they are a foot high, is quite sufficient. Fish-oil emulsion will not burn. Use only half of most recommended doses and you will be safe. Always water before feeding.

Fibrous, in the ground or in pots, should have had the old dry woody canes cut back to the ground in April but it is better to do it now than never. This will give more strength to the new growth and keep the plants young. Repot in new soil or add new compost over the old in the ground. Never cultivate the surface. Tie and stake as inconspicuously as possible but do it often to avoid breaking the brittle stems.

Hairy fibrous like the warm inland regions and will stand more cold in winter. The smooth-leaf type seems to enjoy mild coastal temperatures. Contrary to general belief, a begonia moves best when in full bloom. There is a begonia for any location, even full sun, if you look for it. Try to add some new beauties of the rex or fibrous types to your lathhouse this summer. Their culture is simple and most rewarding and their lovely leaves and graceful small blooms will enhance and supplement the large tuberous favorites.

In Memoriam

Professor T. D. A. Cockerell who died in January of this year is another good friend lost to *California Garden*. Although Professor Cockerell did so much important work in California, many another state would wish to claim him, too. The Academy of Sciences of Kansas published his major contribution to the biota of the desert at the time he was living in Palm Springs, California. He was on the staff of the American Museum of Natural History of New York and was a research associate of the University of California. He and his wife traveled widely, a great part of their travel in the less visited parts of the world.

Professor Cockerell chose to begin his career as a museum director and always fully valued the honored place he had in the march of science. But his heart was in teaching. He loved people and had a crusader's spirit.

However, Professor Cockerell never stopped teaching through his writing and his lectures. His best monument will be his many publications, especially *Zoology** which contains his fine poem, The Last Lecture, expressing his philosophy of life. Through the efforts of his wife this book has had a very wide distribution.

A tribute to Professor Cockerell in a letter to Mrs. Cockerell from Dr. Schwartz of the American Museum of Natural History well expresses the feeling of all Professor Cockerell's admirers.

"A very significant personality has passed from the scene," writes Dr. Schwartz, "and yet, in another sense, how could any one so richly endowed as he ever pass from the scene? Not only his prodigious output of published research is of abiding value but the whole fine example of his life with its courageous devotion to the pursuit of knowledge is certain to be a lasting influence and an inspiration to others. By the loss that everyone feels at his going can be measured your own special loss who, through nearly half a century, shared his aspirations and were the intimate partner of his understanding."

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* Mrs. Cockerell has copies of this book which she will be glad to give to friends.

Another Look at the Devil Bermuda Grass

By Roland Hoyt

It has been said there is nothing like looking at a problem squarely in the face to see what may be seen. In the matter of bermuda-grass we've been doing that for many years, but over the shoulder, fighting and digging and tearing, swearing . . . retiring beaten. This thing is old enough now and with enough background of experience and thinking to warrant getting down to ground. Let's examine the case from behind, possibly from several side angles to get a picture of what it is; what it is likely to do to lawn theory of the future; what it has done to the green lawns of the subtropics, especially here in Southern California. A calm consideration is in order if for no other reason than the increased costs involved in an already expensive operation.

This plant, *Cynodon dactylon,* to give it standing is a summer-growing grass, not welcome but appearing everywhere in lawns, taking over ultimately the function of turf in a thick wiry mat that becomes dormant and brownish over winter. This is bermuda or devil-grass. Resignation has been the refuge and lot of most gardeners, in time if not immediately with the trail marked of the cloven hoof and with a spoor of sweat and tears if not blood. The beginning gardener or the one still young in his reflexes should make an intelligent appraisal of the situation as it seems to fit him. This is that his aim may be clear: then that he may know what to do to carry out a decision.

The decision is whether to call it a weed and control, or accept and call it a lawn. It has been kept out of certain lawns for years and probably can be held back indefinitely with a watchful eye and some knowledge of its habits. This will be easier in a section that has grown up, so to speak, than where near vacant ground is allowed to Nature with her willful and sometimes annoying ways. Just remember it is her job to repopulate the earth, then to re-cover it in support of the population. An understanding of this will come of further reading.

The writer had a lawn in the early thirties which was a nearly pure stand of bluegrass, the only apparent variation being a few patches of bent. It was flanked on one side by a lawn of bent and bermuda, with bluegrass and bermuda across the street. To windward and contiguous as turf was an almost solid mat of bermuda. This was allowed to come to seed from time to time, much of which must have blown in. It crept blandly but insistently across the line and was repulsed for five years. In all that time only one plant of the weed was removed from the body of the grass . . . why?

Where did it come from? Where does all unwanted bermuda come from? The quick answer is from the seed that crossed the border, but this seed requires some six months dry storage before it will germinate and will not remain viable under normal conditions of moisture in lawn maintenance. Another careless answer is through the water system, but if it got in at the source and past filters, the young life soaked and starved of oxygen the long trek; would it germinate? The single plant probably came from seed blown or tracked in by bird or man from a vacant lot across and down the street where it had developed and enjoyed sufficient rest under reasonably dry conditions. This lawn had not been planned as an experimental plot, but it took on that character as a theory began to develop based on the fact that no manure of any kind had been used in mulch or fertility . . . only inorganic commercial fertilizers.

Now, look to Imperial Valley where much of the alfalfa hay is grown and fed to dairy herds all over Southern California. Consider the fact that much of the bermuda seed for commerce is also grown there, that the plant has escaped and is found everywhere about. It grows along the roads and in the drainage ditches and in the fields where it can in time take over and force the desired crop out. It may be growing along with the alfalfa and is harvested with it. Follow it as hay in a dry bale to any dairy or feeding farm anywhere, and see it go into the slatted feeding racks. Know that a certain amount of the seed inevitably drops out to the floor of the lot to mix with the droppings and undergo a further period, either there or in a windrow for even more efficient drying out. Watch certain people come along and hoist the material into a truck or sack it for more convenient dumping onto your bluegrass lawn.

It is only suggested that in doing this you are seeding your lawn to bermuda. Presumably the time in the bale and in the lot has to be sufficient and the timing right because this seed will germinate only in the warmth of the year. This is only theory yet, insofar as actual proving data is concerned, but I have seen the combination come up so often that it is almost fact to me. Beautiful bluegrass lawns that turn over suddenly to bermuda may well be examined in the light of the last manuring.

July Notes

A vegetable garden can still be planted in July if, for some reason, it was impossible to do it earlier. Success will depend on getting the soil in proper condition with fertilizer, spading, and watering. The soil should be worked down to a fine surface before any planting is done. This accomplished, the seeds can be planted.

Vegetables which will do well planted at this time include both bush and pole beans, carrots, lettuce, sweet corn, cucumbers, beets, peas, parsnips, tomatoes, squash, spinach, turnips. Onion sets can be planted if available. Some of the smaller melons can also be started successfully.

Seeds and plants put in at this time need closer attention than those put in earlier. They require more water, more cultivation, and a mulch of manure will help to conserve moisture.

In July and August zinnias, late asters and salvias may still be planted. During these months bearded iris should be lifted and divided.

Iris Propaganda

By Mrs. F. W. Fitzpatrick

The very name *Iris* meaning rainbow, messenger to mankind, is alluring to those who love the flower. It excells practically any other group of flowers in the variety of its colors, sizes and seasons of bloom. There are kinds of iris ready to give bloom during almost any month of the year. My garden, here in San Diego, has scarcely been without bloom for almost two years and I do not have all the numerous species, either.

Other pleasant things about irises are their lovely, swordlike, practically evergreen foliage, which never needs to be staked, and their prolific growth. There is, also, the ease with which iris can be grown or transplanted. Many iris have a delightful perfume and no flower could have a more enchanting form or texture.

While I could never acknowledge that any iris is really ugly, it does seem a shame that many people are still growing the old irises created thirty, forty or even one hundred years ago, when so many new varieties have come into being during the last few years. The newer ones excell those that have gone before in clearness of color, size of blossoms, height of stems, placement of the blossoms on stems. The season of bloom has also been extended from very early to very late for the bearded iris.

Eden Philpotts, an early iris hybridzer, once said, "Man has availed himself of the process of evolution in mightier matters than Iris but in no other theater of his unsleeping efforts has he awakened truer beauty or purer joy for flower lovers than in the bearded iris of June." Here, our irises start in February and run through May.

Growing irises has been my lifetime hobby and I am still working at it. This year I planted out three hundred and twenty-nine little plants that came up from the seed planted last fall. Beside what I already had, this makes about five hundred different kinds of iris in my crowded garden.

Few people realize that each iris grown from seed is different from every other iris. Those from the same seed pods may be very like each other; they may be very unlike, also. All the new kinds come from seed, as do practically all the other groups of horticultual material.

This year I have made about one hundred new crosses and, of course, I shall have no room to plant more than a small portion of those I can get to germinate this winter. But it is still a thrill to imagine what I may get from the crosses, each of which is recorded and followed through to its blooming time. When each plant blooms, if it does not please me or I am too crowded for room, out it comes so another can go in its place. Wasted effort?—sure, but "If little labor, little our gains; man's fortunes are according to his pains." In my time, I've grown thousands of iris and hope to be able to continue, at least for a while longer.

It will soon be time to put in your new beds or borders so as to get them established before the hot weather. Not all growers agree as to the best time for replanting. I have had my best results by doing it immediately after their blooming period is over. Of course the fans will not be as large as if you bought them some months later but they will do their growing in your garden, instead of the growers. That way, in the end, you will be ahead.

Establish your plantings where there is good drainage and at least one half day's sun, in the best soil you can manufacture. If it is adobe, I would advise digging it out and putting in compost if you can get it. Iris must have food the same as any other plant and they are fond of good food and show their appreciation by increased size and quality. Any fertilizer will do so long as it is not green manure and does not touch the rhizomes or roots. With the fertilizer dug into the soil some time before planting or put between the rows, where it will leach out for the roots as they grow to it, iris will thrive. But remember, all plants like a little food often better than they do an overfeed at rare intervals.

In planting, spread out the roots on a downward slant with the top of the rhizome just covered with soil to protect it from the sun and firm the soil around it. If there are not enough roots yet formed (they form new ones every year), I often put down a stake by the side of the fan and tie it up until the roots grow long enough. Fifteen to eighteen inches, between fans, is about right but they can be put closer, if necessary. Keep them moist, not wet, until they start to grow.

If you are planting in a level place, I would advise raising the bed a few inches but not so much higher nor so narrow a bed that the water will run off before it penetrates the soil, during irrigation. Neither must the water lie around the plants without draining off when in excess. Too much moisture, with too much heat, is what causes rot and rot is about the only foe of iris. Transplantone helps with iris planting but is seldom very necessary. Treat them the same as any other plant you want to make grow and they will respond.

New Gardens

By Ruth R. Nelson

Amongst the homes which have been established at Rancho Santa Fe since war's end are two new hilltop estates where, even now, the garden plantings lend great additional charm to the local landscape.

These are the estates of Bishop and Mrs. Walter Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. George Richardson, both of which have been landscaped by Paul Avery. Those who know his work will appreciate what this means, for the gardens which he plans have a way of fitting themselves into the Rancho's hilly terrain and quickly becoming a natural part of it.

As the Richardson garden was opened to those who came to this year's Flower Show, no doubt many California Garden readers have seen this fine example of a country garden with well-placed hedges, lovely rustic rock walls, sweeping lawns, a hidden swimming pool and neat brick pathways between the rose beds. However, although the house itself has been built since the war, the garden has been under cultivation for a number of years, so that its development

has reached a more permanent stage than can be claimed for the Mitchell garden.

This latter estate occupies one of the hilltops on the western edge of the Rancho, and its commanding view in all directions includes the mountains, the ocean, the farm lands of the neighboring valley, the golf course and the village itself. The house, invitingly comfortable, overlooks a steep rugged canyon where landscaping by a former owner was originally designed for a sunken garden. In this spot the trees have grown tall, and the desert plants which thrived mark the cultivated area which is now being cleared for a family orchard.

During building operations it was also possible to preserve several well-established trees on the upper level, where low rock walls and winding walks lead one to a pleasant terrace at the front entrance, which looks eastward toward the mountains. Lawns now hide the barren hilltop, and Mrs. Mitchell who is a devotee of color has chosen to fill her western flower beds with a thoughtful combination of rich dark reds, yellow and white. But on the front terrace the color borders and sheltered nooks have only yellow accents for her greatest favorite which is blue. Here she has used petunias, agathea, violas and lobelia together with tall delphinium and a certain violet fuchsia which she is especially pleased to have discovered.

So, as the reader can easily see, the Mitchell garden although still "new" is a garden which is receiving very personal care from its owners, whose guests frequently discover the Bishop and Mrs. Mitchell in their informal work clothes, digging, raking, or moving the hose to the next dry spot, and enjoying themselves thoroughly during the process.

Mrs. Mitchell takes a particular pleasure in what she calls her provision for old age. She has placed a bird bath just outside her bedroom window. There, she says, when she is so old she has to stay in bed all the time, she can lie quietly watching the birds which already come in appreciative numbers.

The Richardsons, too, favor the spot in their garden where the bird bath has been placed. Neither garden would be complete without this particular feature. It is good to remember the wild delight of the many new bird families of the Rancho gathering daily at these amusingly placed pools while these two interesting gardens continue to flourish throughout the summer months.

Interviews

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick G. Jackson, Mrs. L. M. Klauber, Mrs. Samuel Durr are interviewed about their gardens.

MR. AND MRS. JACKSON

Mrs. Jackson: "The garden isn't mine, it's our garden. We both work in it and equally enjoy it."

Mr. Jackson: "Yes, it's a real family affair, even Mrs. Caldwell, my wife's eighty-nine-year-old mother, has a part in it. Especially what she calls her race track, the triangle of brick walk in our back garden. She takes her quarter-mile constitutional by making six rounds of it."

Mrs. Jackson: "Indeed she does. And she marks her rounds by jasmine blossoms from the vine at the dining room door where you step out on our little square terrace."

Mr. Jackson: "The tiles in that terrace are quite special. Miss Sessions brought them with her from Salerno, Italy."

Mrs. Jackson: "You know, our garden was laid out by Miss Sessions. She planned the front planting to take no care but watering. It's all ivy and evergreens."

Mr. Jackson: "Yes, and we put the house as far forward on the lot as we could so as to have a big garden at the back."

Mrs. Jackson: "In planning the garden, Miss Sessions made it in several divisions to give a feeling of space. Approximately the center is marked by a dwarf pomegranate and a deep blue dwarf plumbago that she planted. Beyond them is the fish pond. In the far corner of the lot, as you stand on the terrace, is the outdoor room."

Mr. Jackson: "Between the fish pond and the outdoor room is a good-sized flower bed surrounded by lawn. Back of the fish pond, to the right of the terrace, is another large bed and we have fuchsias and white anemones there."

Mrs. Jackson: "We call one end of the garden the north forty and the other the south forty, farm style. This year we're adding to the farm atmosphere by putting bush beans in the beds. We've usually had zinnias."

Mr. Jackson: "In the north forty, behind a guava hedge that parallels the path to the garden room, we have a token orchard; a sapota, a fig, an avocado, a tangelo."

Mrs. Jackson: "Mr. Jackson's dahlias are in the narrow bed along the fence across the garden from the house. They are his special pets."

Mr. Jackson: "Of course I'm deeply interested in dahlias, even though I'm limited to twenty-six planted in two rows. They're wonderful flowers, keep blooming from July to November. And they're an ideal interest for us heart cases—no stooping if you have them well staked. I have mine arranged with a sprinkler pipe alongside which gives a spray every three feet."

Mrs. Jackson: "As to roses, though we have several kinds along the walk to the outdoor room, I'd be satisfied to have them all *Dainty Bess*. I like it so much better than any other rose. I'd keep the violets under them, though."

Mr. Jackson: "I have a particular liking, of course, for my own seedling dahlia, *Sinful Pride*. It's yellow, a horned type like its parent *Satan* which is flame color. I find that putting my dahlia tubers away with napthaline in the peat moss keeps them quite free of all kinds of pests, including thieving field mice. As to fertilizer, we use cuttings, dried not composted, everywhere in the garden."

Mrs. Jackson: "Well, I do have some regular barnyard fertilizer for the roses and the lawn. Otherwise, it's cuttings. We think the sweet pea plants cut down and dried when they are through blooming are particularly good."

MRS. L. M. KLAUBER

Mrs. Klauber: "Our garden is on two levels and, generally, I use more of the smaller flowers near the house and larger ones in the border framing the lawn on the lower level. I have a small fish pond with water lilies in it, down there, and several trees shade the grass. One of these is something of a garden curiosity and, though more than twenty feet tall, is not really a tree at all. It's an old *Strelit-*

zia nicholai. Except for its trunk, which is thick, it's like the familiar flame-colored bird of paradise in shape and character. The enormous flowers are dark, however, and, except for size, not conspicuous."

"In the curved border are dahlias, asters, 'glads.' And at the northeast end of this lower level is my rose bed. Near it the steps come down from the house and the hillside is terraced with rocks which makes it a good place for sun-loving plants like petunias. I always have a lot of them."

"On the upper level, where you enter the house, is the pergola covered by a big old wisteria. The vine makes a heavy shade all summer and I have maiden hair fern and other plants that flourish in the shade around and under it. Growing in a pot, but sending out shoots ten feet long on the under side of the pergola, is my favorite vine, *Hoya Carnosa.* The leaves are oval and spaced well apart. In July it produces delightful, velvet petaled, pale pink blossoms. These open to display soft coral. Here in the shade, I also have some tuberous begonias. Smart people, who specialize in them, have flowers as early as May but mine begin to bloom much later."

"Overlooking the lower garden we have a cutting bed of pink and rose zinnias. Beside the path leading down, there is a small bed of blue viscaria and, beyond it, pale yellow lantana grows where the steps begin. I keep my flowers, as much as possible, to pink, blue, lavender, dark red, an occasional pale yellow. I do have a few marigolds of real orange. I like to have lots of ageratum and old-fashioned feverfew all over the garden. I raise my own plants and I always try to get the best seed available. Sometimes I save my seed from last year's flowers."

"For the next three months I'll be having dahlias, zinnias and rainbow asters for the house and for color in the garden. The rainbow asters are the little single ones like daisies—they're the only kind I raise successfully."

"Of my dahlias, I'm faithful to *Jane Cowl* and *Autumn. Autumn* is very hard to get now. The roses I like best are both pink, *Picture* and *Pinocchio. Picture* is creamy pink, large, with beautiful substance and foliage. *Pinocchio* is deep pink, a floribunda with large trusses of vivid blooms."

"All my flower beds are completely dug before each new planting. And I keep the soil built up with regular barnyard fertilizer. I use a lot of bone meal, too. I'm old fashioned about sprays, I haven't tried any of the new ones. But I have good success with *Black Leaf* "40" and *Garden Volk."*

MRS. SAMUEL DURR

Mrs. Durr: "Our garden is looked down on most of the time. It's about twenty-five feet below the terrace. On the covered part of the terrace, I keep pots of camellias, maidenhair fern, and tuberous begonias. In the sun I have all kinds of red and white geraniums. To the right of the end of the terrace is a lath shelter, open toward the house. There I have quite a collection of tuberous begonias, more camellias, fuchsias and other delicate plants. That's all there is at the house level, except the front planting. John Wimmer planned our garden and put it in."

"A brick path leads down from the terrace to an oval of lawn, bordered with perennials and petunias. I tried having annuals down there but they didn't carry up to the terrace. Now the border is pink and coral geranium, blue agapanthus, campanulas, viscaria, pale yellow day lilies. I have some clumps of calla lilies for style. In August there'll be the *Lillium philippinense.* These are shaped like Easter lilies, only larger and faintly lavender on the outside. They're very fragrant and grow tall, with many blossoms on a stalk. They are showy. The blue michaelmas daisies which come later are an anti-climax."

"Trees are the background for my garden. We have flowering fruits like almond, wild plum, crab-apple and, my pet, *Prunus pissardi.* The dark foliage of the last is just as striking as the blossoms were in the spring. The fruit makes good jam, too. The rest of the trees are cypress, spruce, elm, eucalyptus, jacaranda and poplar."

"As you look toward the house from the lawn, the rose bed is to the right. There are about a hundred roses and, whenever I get a new one, I enter it on a chart I keep indoors. At the end of the lawn is the cutting garden. All the annuals get planted there in turn. I put new rows between fading ones so that is always a spot of color."

"My zinnias are always more varicolored than I want them to be, even though I raise all my own plants of all kinds. I particularly like *Frazinnias* for which *Fraser* puts out the seed. They are unusually large and come in nice colors."

"If I had to choose four of my roses, I'd take *Madame Fortavia, Saturnia, Peace* and *J. Otto Thilow. Madame Fortavia* is yellow with particularly beautiful buds. *Saturnia* is truly bi-colored, red petals lined with flame. *Peace* is that large, very double, pale yellow rose with pink edges —fairly new. *J. Otto Thilow* is a most satisfactory pink rose, lovely both as a bud and in full bloom. As for dahlias, I have big, pink *Jersey Beauties* with a medium and a small-sized dahlia that harmonize with it. The small one is *Baby Royal* and the medium a seedling which is the offspring of the others. I also have a beautiful small white dahlia, nameless to me, since it was a gift."

"A bean straw mulch has been very successful on the roses. Commercial fertilizer is used for the whole place. My gardener and I compound our sprays with *Fermate base.* For an all-purpose oil spray, the one put out by the Shell Oil Company has proved satisfactory."

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From the Files

By KATE O. SESSIONS

The *Agapanthus umbellatus* or blue African lily is blooming from June 'till August and is one of the most satisfactory perennials. It requires so little attention, is evergreen and hardy, the clumps increasing yearly in size and beauty. The agapanthus makes a fine row along a drive or broad path and is excellent for a corner. As a foreground for clumps or rows of the pink Belladonna lily it is perfect. The latter blooms only when its foliage is deciduous and the sturdy leaves of the agapanthus hide the nakedness of the pink lily. Agapanthus makes an excellent tub plant for a large porch or patio; also looks well near a pool.

History

By Ethel Bailey Higgens

The first event of historical importance recorded was the proclamation, incident to the taking over of New Mexico. I venture to quote an extract from the proclamation by the newly appointed General Kearny:

"Mr. Alcalde, and people of New Mexico: I have come amongst you by the orders of my government, to take possession of your country, and extend over it the laws of the United States. We consider it, and have done so for some time, a part of the territory of the United States. We come amongst you as friends—not as enemies; as protectors—not as conquerors. We come among you for your benefit—not for your injury.

"* * * * * But listen! He who promises to be quiet, and is found in arms against me, I will hang!"

It is only fair to say however, that they were glad of that protection against the rule to which they were subject.

This expedition was not large and was far from being well equipped. It had no commissary, and depended upon what could be had from day to day. Sometimes even a tough steak from the flank of a worn-out mule was a welcome though not particularly appetizing addition to their meagre menu. Many times only acrid water was available to quench the thirst of desert travel. A raggedy, unkempt little army, they climaxed their journey with the battle of San Pasqual, and added an empire to our growing country.

Under such circumstances it would seem that the impossible was accomplished, when botanical specimens were preserved. Several of the San Diego County plants were thus collected, one of them being the Redshank (*Adenostoma sparsifolia*).

Emory's name (now Major Emory) again comes into the picture at a later date, in connection with the U. S.-Mexican boundary survey. His vivid story of the journey to San Diego via Panama, is a picture of conditions surrounding travel at the time of the gold rush. He waited for the small steamer which took him north for weary weeks; at last, a passenger on a boat crowded so that standing room was at a premium, he came to San Diego.

The botanists connected with the Boundary Survey include such names as Parry, Thuber, Vasey, Schott. Dr. C. C. Parry came first. He joined the personnel as surgeon and botanist of the Commission in charge of the survey in 1849, and collected in the vicinity of San Diego and along the border. *Reconnaissance to the mouth of the Gila River from San Diego* Sept. *11, to* Dec. *10, 1849,* gives us something of his work in that year. Then and in the following year many of the Cacti were included in his collection; also Agave Shawii, the beautiful Agave found along the border near the coast and appearing in striking abundance below the border. Prominent among his findings is the Torrey Pine. It was at this time that Dr. Parry found the little *Ophioglossum californicum*: known only from this collection until it was taken years later (in 1882) by Dr. Parry and Daniel Cleveland in the same locality. Dr. Parry remained with the Border Survey only a short time before he was called to other work. His interest in Southern California Plant Life did not lag, however, and in later years his name was prominent.

Dr. Parry was succeeded by Dr. George Thurber. Dr. Thurber's early interest was in pharmacy, and his interest in medical plants led him to take up the study of botany. His opportunity to unite these interests came with his appointment to the personnel of the Boundary Survey. Most of his collecting was done on the southern border between the coast and the Colorado River. Dr. Thurber contributed the section on grasses in the Botany of California. (Brewer and Watson.)

One of the expeditions sent out by the government, the PR.R. Survey, (the Parks expedition, 1854-55), has some interest to San Diego County Botanists. Dr. Thomas Antisell, geologist, in his report published a list of plants collected by him: *Synoptical Table of Botanical Localities.* These were the first lists of California plants published.

In 1869 there came to San Diego one whose name strikes a sour note in the story of botanical history, one Benito Roezl, a collector for European nurserymen. The story of Roezl's activities does not make such pleasant reading as do the stories of other personalities. He was a commercial collector, who might well serve as a prototype for some of those of the present day, from the unscrupulous and wantonly destructive methods attributed to him: for instance, his collection of large numbers of plants, so poorly packed that they died in transit. However, that might not have been (for him) an entirely unhappy result; had they lived they might have proved to be other than they seemed. It is said that he came to Southern California to obtain plants of *Delphinium cardinale* (the lovely scarlet larkspur), and although the flowering season was over, he collected thousands of the plants, which in their later blooming, proved to have *blue* flowers; others of his collection failed to survive to prove themselves. He did however, collect and send seed of the Washingtonia filifera to Europe and the description of this palm resulted. He also collected the Yucca, long known to us as *Yucca mohavensis,* but which, from one of those peculiar quirks of nomenclature, we must change to *Y. schedigera. A Ribes* commemorates his name.

The golden era of American botanical history, the seventies and eighties, brought to San Diego a brilliant galaxy of names: Parry, Cleveland, Palmer, Pringle, Parish, Orcutt.

Dr. Parry's love for Southern California did not end when he left the Boundary Survey, and he made several visits to San Diego in 1876, 1880, 1881, and 1882. He collected assiduously and contributed largely to botanical literature. A tribute was given to his work by Parish *Parry and Southern California Botany Plant Life* 12, 1909).

In 1869 there came to San Diego a man who was to prove one of the outstanding figures in its botanical history, Daniel Cleveland. He lived in San Diego for 60 years until his death in 1929 at the age of 90 years. A lawyer by profession, botany was his hobby and recreation. A pursuit which was his great joy, that of collecting things in San Diego County, yielded a rich return and many distinctive things were named for him.

Clevelandii as a specific name appears in many genera.

Because of his interest in botany he could not fail to be active in the starting of the Natural History Society of San Diego. He became one of its charter members on its inception in 1874. He served as its president at two different times. 1888-90 and 1893-1904.

Mr. Cleveland made many friends and his visitors and co-workers included most of the botanists who were here in those active decades, men like Parry, Parish, Palmer, Pringle and Greene. He himself published very little; his critical material went to Greene and to Asa Gray and Sereno Watson. He exchanged widely and through his generosity the Herbarium of the San Diego Natural History Society has a goodly number of sheets collected by those early in the field.

C. G. Pringle, whose work was for the most part in Mexico, visited San Diego in 1882. He published *Pringle's Distribution of the Flora of the Pacific Slope* in 1882.

One of the outstanding Botanists of that period was Samuel Bonsall Parish. He, with his brother, came to San Bernardino and purchased a ranch in 1872. He became interested in the flora about his new home and became an ardent collector and contributor to the botanical literature of Southern California. His work largely concerned the flora of the San Bernardino Mountains and of the desert, but he made many trips to San Diego County and his contribution to a knowledge of the County and the distribution of its flora has been of inestimable value. He was a voluminous, albeit, a careful writer.

His home became the mecca for visiting botanists in Southern California and his trips were many in company with such men as Sargent, Parry, Pringle, Palmer and others. He collected tree specimens for Sargent for the Arnold Arboretum and for the U. S. National Herbarium. His own large herbarium was sold to Stanford University in 1917. Mr. Parish removed to Berkeley in 1920 where he remained until his death in 1928, at the age of 90.

No story of San Diego County botany would be complete without the inclusion of that erratic genius, Charles Russell Orcutt. For years, following the footsteps of his father, H. C. Orcutt, he was an assiduous collector. His interest was not confined to botany, and he collected insects, shells, etc. This he did commercially, selling his collections. He maintained headquarters for the sale of everything from rare cacti to real estate.

He was publisher of a vast and heterogeneous amount of matter. Of the many periodicals published under his name, the West American Scientest was the most ambitious and long-continued. At one time he claimed this to be the organ of the Natural History Society. The early issues are of special value, as its contributors included many of established reputation. It soon deteriorated.

His work should not be underestimated, however. In the course of his journeys he covered territory not before explored and collected many new and interesting things. His name is honored by one genus *Orcuttia* and many species. He contributed to his work of collecting vast enthusiasm and zeal; he enjoyed the friendship of many of the great and near-great, and on many trips was one of a party of eminent and able botanists. His checklist of the *Flora of Southern and Lower California* is a pamphlet still quoted in booklists. In it is included Cleveland's list of Marine Algae.

It was a decade later that another dynamic figure, or rather pair of dynamic figures, Mr. and Mrs. Brandegee, came to San Diego to make their home. (1894.)

Mr. Townsend Stith Brandegee was a civil engineer and much of his earlier work was done while he was engaged in surveying trips in Colorado and other sections of the west. In 1889 he made a trip to Lower California, and from that time his work was chiefly connected with the flora of that section. However, he said that during their residence in San Diego: "I have also carefully botanized San Diego County, the Cuyamaca Mountains and the Colorado desert.

Mrs. Brandegee (Mary Katherine Layne Curran) was for many years Curator of the herbarium at the California Academy of Sciences at San Francisco, until they came to San Diego. While in San Diego, Mr. and Mrs. Brandegee maintained a botanical garden near First and Spruce streets.

Zoe, a journal published in five volumes (1890-96), was owned and published by them, Mr. Brandegee serving as editor. "Desiring some publication that would allow freer scope to discussion and criticism" the journal was first projected by Mrs. Brandegee. They removed to Berkeley in 1906, working in the herbarium during the rest of their lives. Their private herbarium and library were given to the University of California at Berkeley.

In the more recent San Diego County botanical records there are represented the names of practically all workers in the field of California botany: Jepson, Abrams, Munz, Johnston, Wolf, Wiggins, Epling and many others. The San Diego Museum has been active also and has done intensive collecting in the County.

In spite of this wonderful record, the words of Dr. Parry, in an address before the Natural History Society in March, 1883, still hold a lesson. He said: "You are occupying an important field, rich not only in historical reminiscence, but richer still in future possibilities."

The word is still true. Much has been done since that time, but portions of the County are still untouched.

Rancho Santa Fe

The Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club elected new officers last month (May) at a luncheon at the Rancho Santa Fe Inn. The fficers for the coming year include Mrs. George Lunn, president; Mrs. Hubert Brooks, vice president; Mrs. Alfred Hill, treasurer; Mrs. Andrew Cameron, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Francisco, corresponding secretary. Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Francisco served in their same offices last year.

On the board of directors of the club are Mrs. Norman Carmaichael, honorary president; Mrs. Clinton J. Curtis, Mrs. John E. How, Mrs. George Lunn, Mrs. Ronald MacDonald, Mrs. Russell Millar, Mrs. H. Ray Millard, Mrs. Sydney R. Nelson, Mrs. Lennart Palme, Mrs. Albert B. Wells.

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